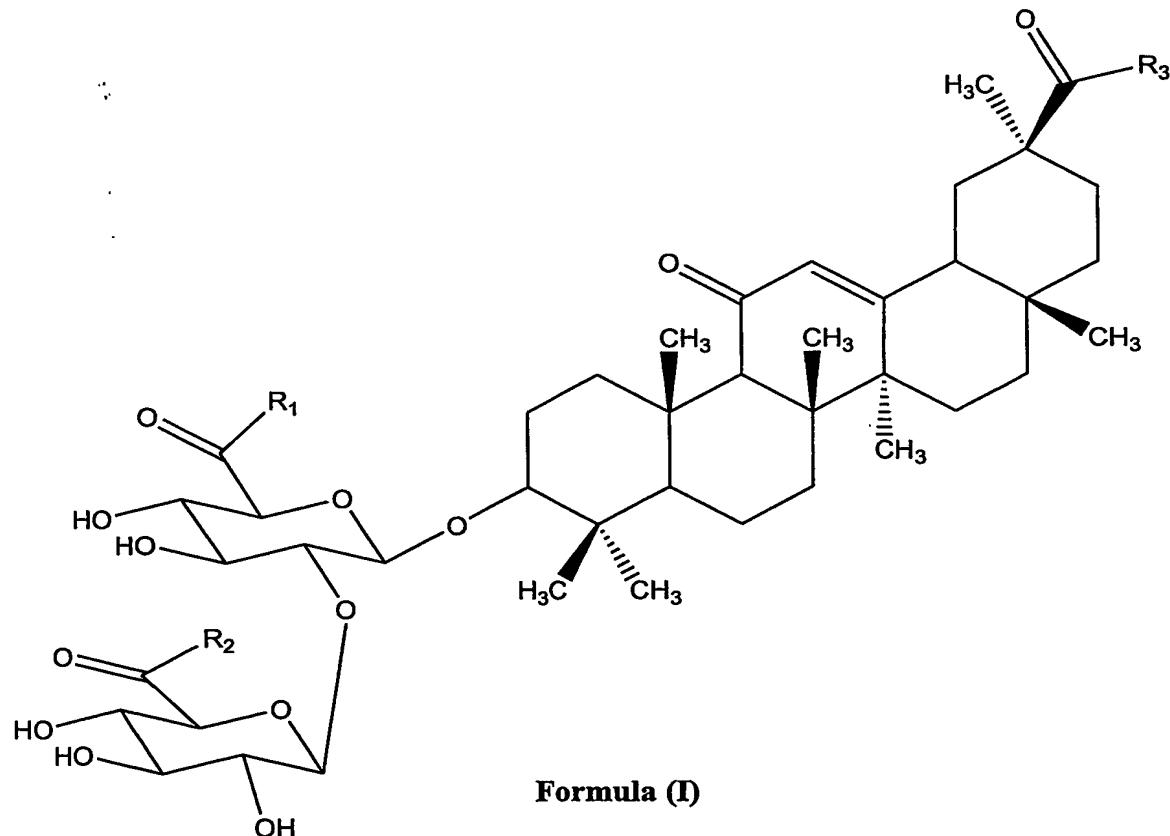


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of treating a SARS-associated coronavirus infection or ameliorating one or more symptoms thereof, said method comprising administering to a human infected with SARS-associated coronavirus a therapeutically effective amount of Glycyrrhizin or a derivative thereof.

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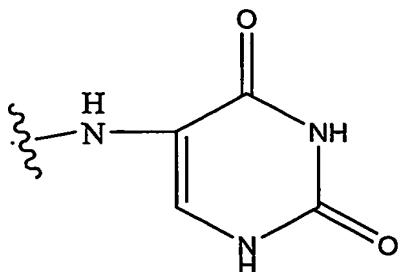
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the derivative of Glycyrrhizin is a compound of Formula (I):



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wherein R₁, R₂, and R₃ are independently: -OH; 5-, 6-, or 7- membered heterocycle; -Glycine-Leucine; -N(H)R₄, wherein R₄ is 5-, 6-, or 7- membered heterocycle.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein R₁, R₂, and R₃ each is:

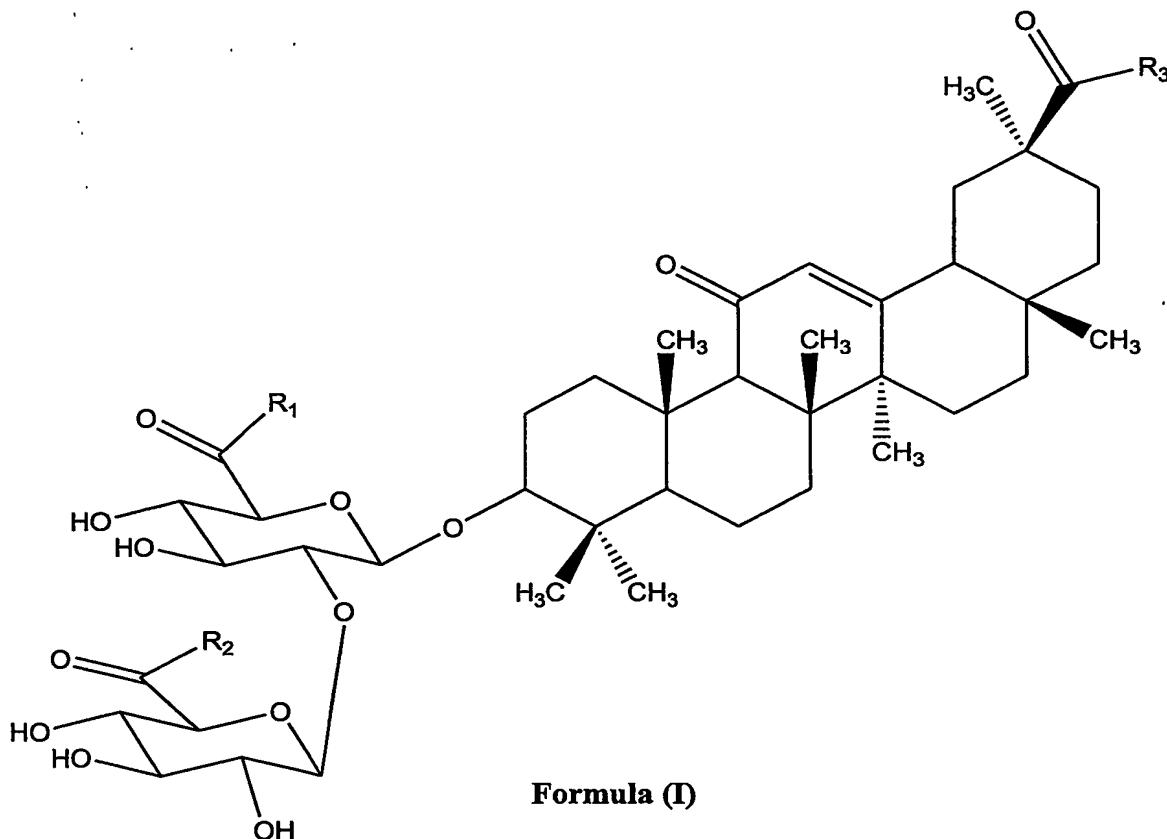


4. A method of inhibiting or reducing the multiplication of a SARS-associated coronavirus, said method comprising contacting a cell with an effective amount of Glycyrrhizin or a derivative thereof.
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5. A method of inhibiting or reducing the production of SARS-associated coronavirus particles, said method comprising contacting a cell with an effective amount of Glycyrrhizin or a derivative thereof.
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6. The method of claim 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5, wherein Glycyrrhizin or the derivative thereof is purified.
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7. The method of claim 1, 4, or 5, wherein the Glycyrrhizin derivative is 18 β -Glycyrrhizinic acid.
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8. The method of claim 1, wherein the human infected with a SARS-associated coronavirus is an elderly human, a human infant or an immunocompromised human.
9. The method of claim 1 further comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of an antiviral agent other than Glycyrrhizin or a derivative thereof.
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10. The method of claim 9, wherein the antiviral agent other than Glycyrrhizin is Ribavirin.
11. A method for preventing a SARS-associated coronavirus infection, said method comprising administering to a human in need thereof a prophylactically effective amount of Glycyrrhizin or a derivative thereof.
12. The method of claim 11, wherein Glycyrrhizin or a derivative thereof is purified.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the subject has been exposed to a SARS-associated coronavirus infection.

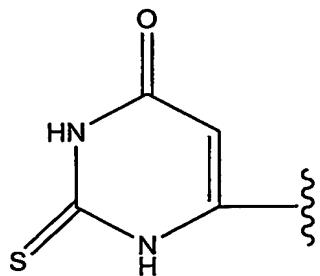
14. The method of claim 11, wherein the Glycyrrhizin derivative is 18 β - Glycyrrhetic acid.

5 15. A compound of Formula I:

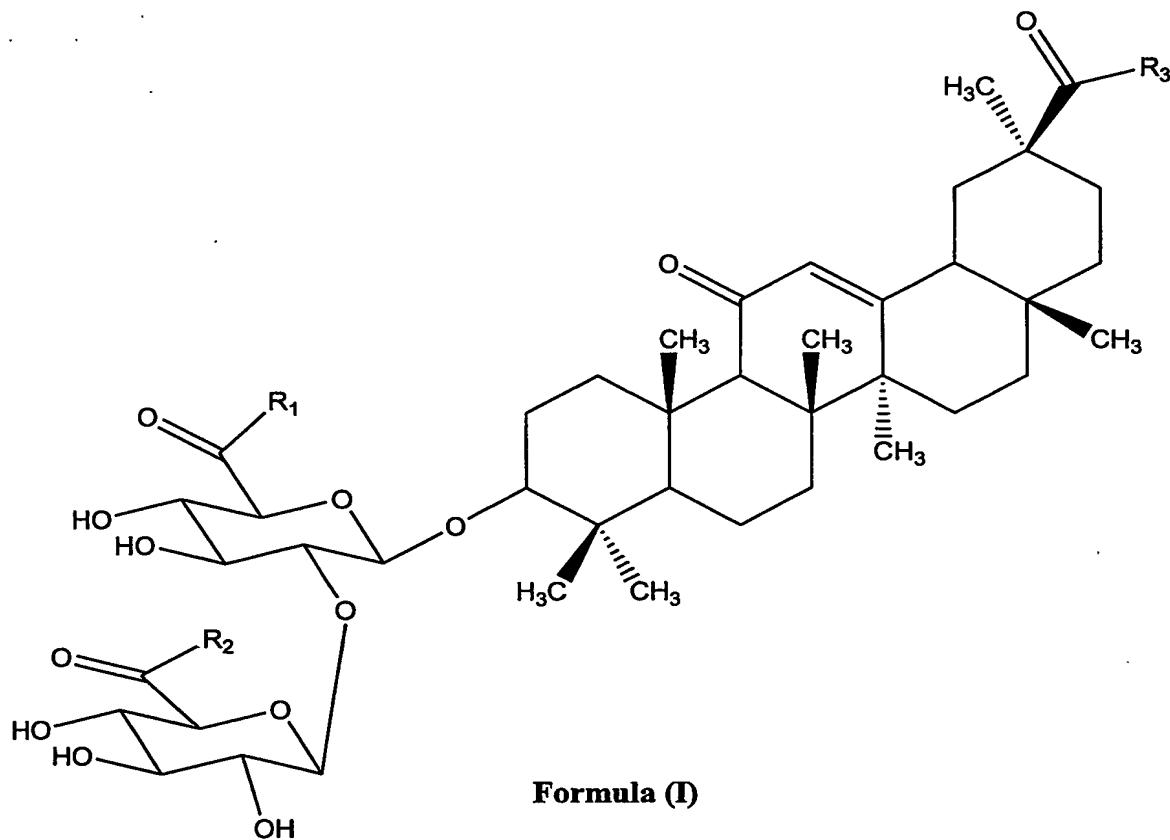


or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R₁, R₂, and R₃ are -N(H)R₄, wherein R₄ is -5-, 6-, or 7- membered heterocycle (substituted or unsubstituted), with the

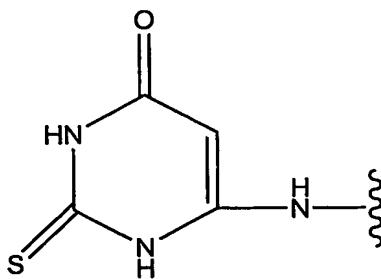
proviso that R₄ is not thiazole, uracil or



16. A compound of Formula I:



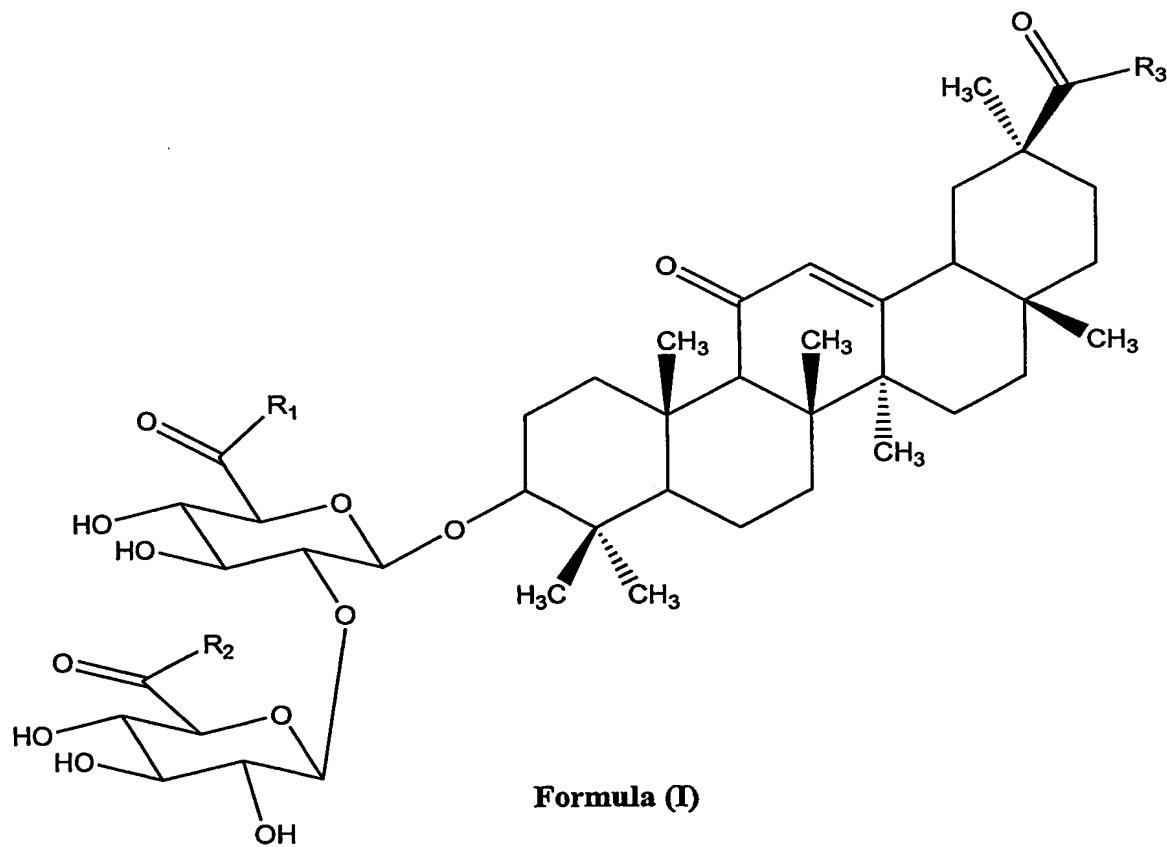
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein one of R₁ and R₂ is:



and R₃ and the other of R₁ and R₂ are independently -OH; -OCH₃; -NH-NH₂; -NHCH(COOH)CH₂SCH₂C₆H₅; 5-, 6-, or 7- membered heterocycle (substituted or unsubstituted); an amino acid; a peptide; -N(H)R₄, wherein R₄ is -5-, 6-, or 7- membered heterocycle (substituted or unsubstituted).

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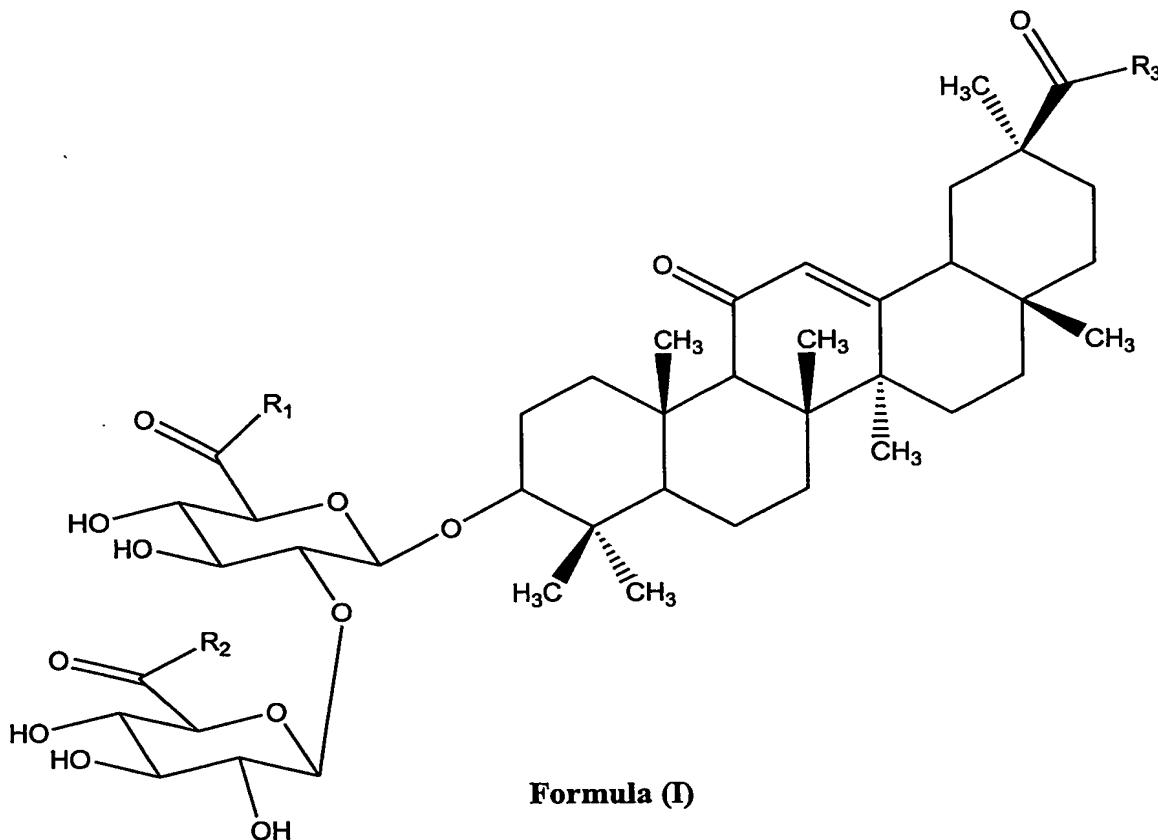
17. A compound of Formula I:



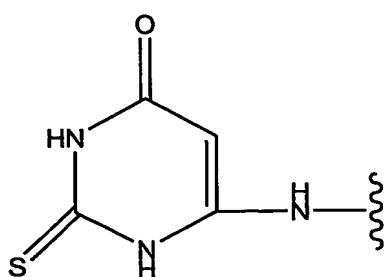
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein one of R₁, R₂, and R₃ is an amino acid or a peptide and the other two of R₁, R₂, and R₃ are independently -OH; -OCH₃; -NH-NH₂; -NHCH(COOH)CH₂SCH₂C₆H₅; 5-, 6-, or 7- membered heterocycle (substituted or unsubstituted); -N(H)R₄, wherein R₄ is -5-, 6-, or 7- membered heterocycle (substituted or unsubstituted).

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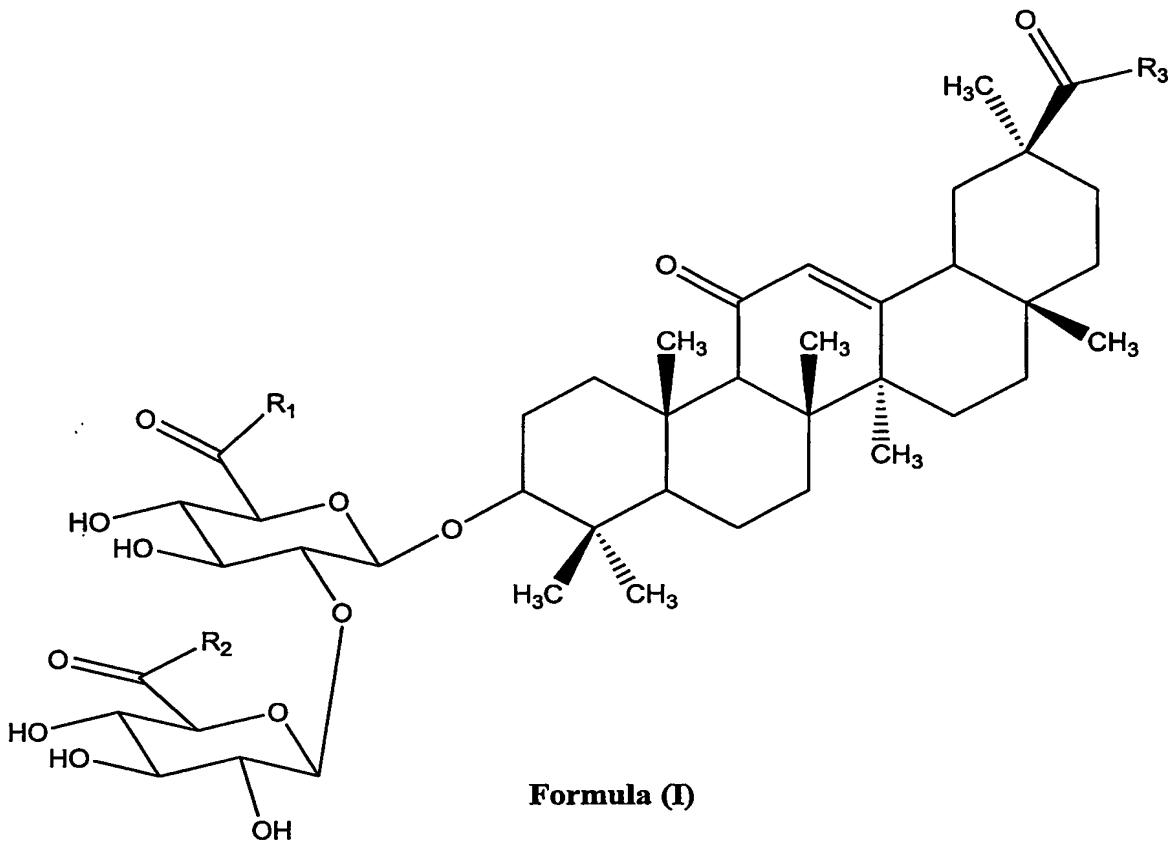
18. A compound of Formula I:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R₁, R₂, and R₃ are:



19. A compound of Formula I:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R₁, R₂, and R₃ are independently a 5-, 6-, or 7-membered heterocycle (substituted or unsubstituted), with the proviso that R₁, R₂, and R₃ are not all proline.

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20. A method of treating a SARS-associated coronavirus infection or ameliorating one or more symptoms thereof, said method comprising administering to a human infected with SARS-associated coronavirus a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of any one of claims 15-19.